Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 624

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 0826

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, EEC, DA

SUBJ: MINISTER MORGAARD'S VIEWS ON COMMUNITY

DEVELOPMENT

REF: COPENHAGEN 756

1. I CALLED ON FOREIGN ECONOMICS MINISTER IVAR NORGAARD MARCH 21 TO RENEW THE RELATIONSHIP WE HAD ESTABLISHED WHEN HE OCCUPIED THE SAME POSITION IN THE PREVIOUS SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT. WHEN I ARRIVED, NORGAARD WAS JUST CONCLUDING A MEETING WITH DANISH EC COMMISSIONER GUNDELACH AND WAS THEREFORE PRIMED FOR DISCUSSION CONFIDENTIAL

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OF COMMUNITY MATTERS.

- 2. I ASKED NORGAARD WHAT HE THOUGH WOULD BE THE OUTCOME OF THE BRITISH REFERENDUM. HE SAID HE VERY MUCH HOPED IT WOULD BE POSITIVE, FOR A NEGATIVE VOTE WOULD HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR DENMARK. HE FELT CONFIDENT THAT WILSON WOULD BE ABLE TO LEAD THE BRITISH PUBLIC TO THE RIGHT DECISION. IF, HOWEVER, HE FAILED, AND BRITIAN HAD TO WITHDRAW FROM THE COMMUNITY. DENMARK WAS COMMITTED TO HOLDING A REFERENDUM ALSO ON WHETHER IT SHOULD REMAIN IN. IN THAT CASE, NORGAARD SAID, HE EXPECTED STRONG DOMES-TIC PRESSURES FOR AN EARLY REFERENDUM WHICH HE WAS CONFIDENT THE GOVERNMENT COULD RESIST. THE GOVERNMENT WOULD PLAN TO DEFER THE DANISH REFERENDUM UNTIL THE RESULTS OF A BRITISH TRADE ARRANGEMENT WITH THE COMMUNITH WERE KNOWN. HE DID NOT AT THIS POINT WANT TO SPECULATE ON THE OUTCOME OF A DANISH REFERENDUM UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES. HE FELT IT BEST TO CONTINUE ASSUMING THE BRITISH WOULD VOTE TO STAY IN AND THUS AVOID A DANISH PROBLEM.
- 3. SINCE NORGAARD HAD ATTENDED THE RECENT DUBLIN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING, I ASKED HOW HE FELT ABOUT EC SUMMITS. NORGAARD SAID THAT, IF DENMARK HAD ITS CHOICE, THERE WOULD BE NO HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING EXCEPT ON SUCH OCCASIONS AS LARGE ISSUES ERE AT STAKE, AS WAS THE CASE AT DUBLIN WHEN MAJOR DECISIONS WERE MADE ON THE BRITISH RENGEOTIATIONS. AS HIS UNDER SECRETARY HAD ALSO REMARKED (REFTEL), NORGAARD FELT THAT EVEN THE REVISED FORMAT FOR SUMMITS GIVES TOO LITTLE VOICE TO THE SMALLER POWERS. HE REMARKED THAT, SO LONG AS GISCARD AND SCHMIDT ARE ABOUT, EC HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETINGS WILL BE THEIR SHOW, WITH ALL OTHERS, EXCEPTING WILSON, OBSERVERS TO THE PERFORMANCE.
- 4. NORGAARD SAID THAT TALK CONTINUES ABOUT CONFIDENTIAL

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CHANGING THE SUMMIT FORMAT, WITH A NUMBER OF OTHER MEMBER COUNTRIES (PRESUMABLY THE SMALLER STATES) SHARING DANISH CONCERNS, BUT HE WAS NOT SANGUINE ABOUT ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THE PROCEDURES.

5. COMMENT: I FOUND THAT, IN THE INTERIM DURING THE HARTLING REGIME WHEN HE WAS OUT OF GOVERNMENT, NORGAARD HAD PUT ON CONSIDERABLE WEIGHT IN THE WRONG PLACES. HE WAS, HOWEVER, WELL VERSED IN COMMUNITY MATTERS AND, RATHER PROUDLY, TOLD ME THAT HE NOW ALSO KEEPS HIMSELF BRIEFED ON POLITICAL MATTERS NORMALLY HANDLED BY FOREIGN MINISTER K.B. ANDERSEN. UNDER THE NEW ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN THESE TWO HEADS OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, EACH WILL SPELL THE OTHER WHEN ONE IS OUT OF TOWN. NORGAARD NOW ALSO HANDLES COMMUNITY POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS WHEN THEY ARE INCIDENTAL TO COUNCIL MEETINGS. CROWE

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